

**STATEMENT
OF THE

ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
RESERVE AFFAIRS

HONORABLE THOMAS F. HALL
BEFORE THE

NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS,
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM

IN CONNECTION WITH
“HOMELAND DEFENSE: OLD FORCE
STRUCTURES FOR NEW MISSIONS?”**

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Thomas F. Hall

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs

Thomas F. Hall, a native of Barnsdall, Oklahoma, was sworn in as the fourth Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs on October 9, 2002. A Presidential appointee confirmed by the Senate, he serves as the principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense on all matters involving the 1.3 million members of the Reserve components of the United States Armed Forces. He is responsible for overall supervision of Reserve component affairs of the Department of Defense.



Mr. Hall is a retired two-star Rear Admiral having served almost 34 years of continuous active duty in the United States Navy. He is a distinguished and decorated Naval Aviator, who served a combat tour in Vietnam. He has performed in numerous high level staff, command, and NATO positions during his career. He commanded Patrol Squadron EIGHT, Naval Air Station Bermuda, and the Iceland Defense Force. His final military assignment was as the Commander/Director/Chief of Naval Reserve. His military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Air Medal, and various other personal and unit decorations. He was awarded the Order of the Falcon, with Commander's Cross, by the President of Iceland in recognition of his accomplishments and service as Commander Iceland Defense Force. He has been inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

Mr. Hall attended Oklahoma State University for one year before entering the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. In 1963, he graduated from the Academy with a bachelor's degree in Engineering and was named as one of the top 25 leaders in his class, having commanded both the top Battalion and Company. He was, also, awarded the Brigade Intramural Sports Trophy. In 1971, he received a master's degree in Public Personnel Management from George Washington University. He graduated with highest distinction from the Naval War College; with distinction, from the National War College; and from the National Security Course at Harvard University. He was selected as a Fellow and served on the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group.

Mr. Hall has served on the Boards of Directors of numerous nonprofit organizations that are supporting the needs of our veterans and citizens in general. Prior to returning to government service, Mr. Hall served as the Executive Director of the Naval Reserve Association for six years. The Naval Reserve Association is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit veterans' organization that represents over 23,000 Naval Reserve officers, members, and their families.

Mr. Hall is married to the former Barbara Norman and they have one son, Thomas David Hall.

Overview Statement

Introduction

Mr. Chairman and members of this distinguished subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today, representing the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Honorable, Dr. David S.C. Chu. On his behalf, I want to thank you for your continuing support of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

As Secretary Rumsfeld has testified, “if we are to win the war on terror, and prepare for the wars of tomorrow, we must take care of the Department’s greatest asset: our men and women in uniform. ‘Smart weapons’ are worthless to us unless they are in the hands of smart soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.” As has been recently demonstrated in Iraq, our military is comprised of the best young people, on both the active and reserve side, that our nation has to offer.

My purpose here today is to discuss the part that our Reserve components play in supporting the Department of Defense’s role in Homeland Defense.

While sometimes associated exclusively with the Reserve components, from the DoD perspective and participation, Defense of the Homeland is a Total Force mission, with important roles for both the Active and Reserve components. In addressing this mission, the Department must balance requirements for Homeland Security with traditional warfighting requirements. To make the best use of our military capabilities,

Reserve component forces are “dual missioned” for both wartime and domestic support missions.

Defense of the homeland has always been a priority mission area for the Department of Defense. But since the events of September 11, 2001, defense of the homeland has received renewed focus, spurred by a realization that our citizens and people residing in our country are vulnerable to attack on U.S. soil.

On September 11th, the response of our National Guard and Reserve men and women was quick, complete and totally professional. They volunteered and responded to the nation’s needs without hesitation and with a deep sense of purpose. Many reported immediately to their armories and Reserve Centers without being asked or without specific direction. They instinctively knew it was their duty. Before the fireball disappeared from above the Pentagon, Air National Guardsmen and Air Force, Navy, and Marine Reservists were patrolling the skies over Washington DC, New York, and several other American cities.

At the same time on September 11th, New York Guardsmen were on the streets of lower Manhattan assisting New York emergency service workers. Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia Guardsmen were patrolling the hallways and exterior of the still burning Pentagon. By the next morning, over 6,000 Guardsmen and Reservist were on duty – all were volunteers.

Shortly thereafter, at the President’s request, over 9,500 Army and Air National Guardsmen began to provide protection at 400 of our airports, and continued to do so for over 9 months. This was followed by National Guard support to the Border Patrol, US

Customs Service, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service in 12 Border States. This support included several helicopters and over 1,500 National Guardsmen for over six months.

In contributing to homeland defense, the Department provides forces to conduct traditional military missions under extraordinary circumstances, such as the defense of the nation's airspace, ballistic missile defense, security of military and key national installations, and port and maritime security.

CONUS Air Defense

The Air National Guard has historically been involved in the air defense or air sovereignty mission, and comprise over 80% of the aircrews flying air sovereignty missions. On continuous alert, Air National Guard aircraft monitor and interdict threats as varied as terrorism, foreign military aircraft incursions, illegal immigration, and drug trafficking.

While the Air National Guard has been successful in sustaining a high operational tempo, the level of demand since September 11 has remained high. In the intervening 20 months, more than 15,000 airmen of the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Active Air Force have flown over 29,000 fighter, tanker and airborne early warning sorties to protect our skies.

Port and Maritime Security

The Navy and Coast Guard are the two Services that predominantly perform the maritime security mission. The Navy supports the Coast Guard in its port and coastal

security tasks through an inter-Service agreement. This is a strong relationship that involves sharing people, equipment, information, and intelligence. The establishment of U.S. Northern Command is not expected to fundamentally alter how the Navy and Coast Guard divide the domestic and maritime security mission.

The Coast Guard has defended America's coasts for over 200 years, performing a range of missions, to include: maritime law enforcement and safety, national defense, maritime mobility, and maritime environmental protection. Its mission suite focuses on civil and law enforcement tasks in U.S. coastal and navigable waters. In contrast, the Navy focuses more on deterring and preempting military targets well forward of U.S. coasts.

The Reserve components already play a prominent role in the maritime security mission. The Coast Guard is the lead service in performing port security, with port security units staffed primarily with reserve personnel. Today, over 4,000 Coast Guard Reserve personnel are mobilized in support of this Homeland Defense mission.

Civil Support

As the federal government has become more engaged in aiding local government response to natural disasters and other emergencies, the military's involvement has grown proportionally and will likely continue to be strong. Although the civil support function is to assist other Lead Federal Agencies, this mission is critical to the safety and security of the American public. Our Reserve forces, especially the National Guard, have historically been the first military forces to arrive in support of local civil response efforts.

Events Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction

Because of the growing threat from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive weapons, incident management capabilities are critically important. There have been substantial efforts in recent years to increase the capabilities in the Reserve components to respond to domestic terrorist incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

Thirty-two National Guard WMD Civil Support Teams have been fielded and all are now certified as being operationally ready. Twenty-five Army Reserve chemical units have been cross-trained and equipped to perform domestic casualty decontamination, and three Army Reserve chemical reconnaissance units have been trained and equipped to perform nuclear, biological, and chemical reconnaissance for domestic incidents. A substantial amount of the aerial spraying and firefighting capabilities in the Air Force reside in the Reserve component, and the Coast Guard Reserve provides both specialized port-security elements (for detection and interdiction) and environmental hazard response strike teams that may be useful in chemical or biological incidents.

CONCLUSION

Today, we have over 220,000 National Guard and Reserve men and women supporting Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. They are performing force protection and security duties here in the United States, flying refueling missions over central Asia, and are on the ground in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, in response to Secretary Ridge's request to the Governors to support Operation

Liberty Shield, over 2,700 Army and Air National Guardsmen were activated under state control to protect critical assets of national significance in their states.

The Total Force policy and our integration efforts of the past decade are paying great rewards today. On little or no notice, America's National Guard and Reserve have been "ready to roll." To this day, their enthusiasm for the Global War on Terrorism remains high. They are in it for the long haul. We are judiciously managing the force to ensure fair and equitable treatment of our Reserve component members, but the bottom line is they are committed and capable warriors in this war on terrorism.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement.